

Message Text

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TO HICOMTERPACIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TQ

SUBJECT: TEXT OF DOTA LETTER TO HICOM ON PALAU SUPERPORT
PROJECT

DOTA NO. 377-TT

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM MR. ZEDER TO HICOM:

QUOTE DEAR MR. JOHNSTON:

AS YOU KNOW, PRIOR TO ARRIVING IN MICRONESIA ON MY LAST
TRIP, I STOPPED IN TOKYO FOR MEETINGS WITH THE MINISTER OF
INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN
AND REPRESENTATIVES OF JAPANESE INDUSTRIAL AND BANKING
CONCERNS TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSAL FOR AN OIL-TRANSSHIPMENT
SUPERPORT IN THE KOSSOL REEF AREA OF THE PALAU DISTRICT.
THE PROMOTERS OF THE PROJECT, WHO WERE ALSO PRESENT, HAVE
COMPLETED THE PRE-FEASIBILITY PHASE OF PLANNING AND ARE NOW
INTERESTED IN MOUNTING A RATHER COMPREHENSIVE FEASIBILITY
STUDY WHICH, I UNDERSTAND, WILL ADDRESS IN DETAIL THE
ECONOMIC, DESIGN, ENGINEERING, AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK
ASPECTS OF THE PROPOSAL. THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN HAS
EXPRESSED SOME DEGREE OF INTEREST IN BOTH THE PROJECT AND
IN ASSISTING IN THE FUNDING OF THE FEASIBILITY STUDY. A

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DECISION FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN AS TO WHETHER OR NOT

IT WILL ALSO INVOLVE ITSELF FINANCIALLY AT THIS STAGE IS EXPECTED IN A FEW WEEKS.

IF YOU WILL RECALL MY LETTER TO YOU OF SEPTEMBER 3, 1975, I STATED AT THAT TIME THAT "THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT MUST RESERVE TO ITSELF THE AUTHORITY FOR FINAL APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF ANY SUPERPORT PROPOSAL SUCH AS THE ONE UNDER REFERENCE." THIS REMAINS THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES. THE OFFICE OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS HAS BEEN DESIGNATED THE CENTRAL POINT IN THE GOVERNMENT FOR COORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUBSEQUENT UNITED STATES POSITION. IN THIS CAPACITY, WHILE IN TOKYO, I INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN AND THE PRIVATE PARTIES PRESENT AT THE MEETINGS THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS NO OBJECTIONS TO THE MOUNTING OF A FEASIBILITY STUDY REGARDING THE SUPERPORT PROJECT. WE, IN FACT, CONSIDER THAT THE STUDY WILL BE HELPFUL TO THE EVENTUAL DECISION-MAKING PROCESS BOTH LOCALLY AND IN WASHINGTON. I FEEL IT IS NECESSARY HOWEVER TO MAKE CLEAR TO YOU AND TO ANY INTERESTED PARTIES IN THE TRUST TERRITORY THAT, BY NOT OBJECTING TO THE FEASIBILITY STUDY, NEITHER I NOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT GENERALLY HAVE IN ANY WAY INDICATED ULTIMATE APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT ONCE AN OFFICIAL PROPOSAL AND REQUEST ARE MADE. IT WAS ALSO INDICATED IN TOKYO THAT THE EVENTUAL UNITED STATES POSITION WOULD NOT BE IN ANY WAY INFLUENCED BY THIS CURRENT DECISION REGARDING THE FEASIBILITY STUDY. I BELIEVE IT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO MAKE THIS INFORMATION KNOWN TO THE PEOPLE AND LEADERSHIP OF PALAU AND WILL APPRECIATE YOUR TAKING APPROPRIATE STEPS TO DO SO.

RELATED TO THIS, MR. ROBERT PANERO, WHO HAS BEEN RETAINED BY JAPANESE CONCERNS TO COORDINATE THE SUPERPORT PROJECT, HAS BEEN INVITED BY SENATORS SALII AND TMETUHL TO ADDRESS THE PALAU DISTRICT LEGISLATURE DURING ITS CURRENT SESSION. MR. PANERO INFORMS US THAT HE PLANS TO ARRIVE AROUND DECEMBER FIRST. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS WITH THE DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER AND HE INFORMS ME THAT YOU WILL BE IN KOROR DURING THIS PERIOD. IF YOUR SCHEDULE PERMITS I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU ACCOMPANY MR. PANERO FOR THE

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PURPOSES OF ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE ROLE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT AND THE TRUST TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION IN THE PROJECT. IN THE EVENT YOU ARE UNABLE TO ADJUST YOUR SCHEDULE, PLEASE HAVE YOUR EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MR. SABLAN, GO TO PALAU FOR THIS PURPOSE. I WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE HEARING FROM YOU OR MR. SABLAN AFTER THIS TRIP PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE REACTION OF THE PALAU LEGISLATURE TO THE PROPOSAL. THE PALAUANS

SHOULD ALSO BE ENCOURAGED TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR OFFICE
OR DIRECTLY WITH ME REGARDING THIS SUBJECT IF THEY
DESIRE.

I WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS ON THE
SUPERPORT ISSUE AS THEY OCCUR AND WILL APPRECIATE ANY
INFORMATION YOU MAY WISH TO COMMUNICATE.

SINCERELY, FRED M. ZEDER, DIRECTOR OF TERRITORIAL AFFAIRS
UNQUOTE. END OF TEXT. DOTA ZEDER SENDS.
INGERSOLL

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